

Loop5 reduces its electricity consumption and promotes the use of renewable-based energy supplies



Buildings consume around 40% of the world's energy and are responsible for nearly the same amount of carbon emissions. Shifting buildings' energy consumption towards low carbon electricity and renewable energy contributes to mitigating global climate change. In keeping with Sonae Sierra's commitment to operate its shopping centres in an environmentally responsible way, Loop5 has taken action to reduce its electricity consumption and

promote the use of renewable-based energy supplies.

In 2011, Loop5 achieved a 12% reduction in its electricity consumption (kWh per m²) in comparison with 2010 by following a comprehensive plan which involved optimising the mall lighting. Since 2009, the shopping centre has also been supplied by a certified renewable energy-based electricity contract. In 2011, Loop5 also agreed a new contract for its supply of natural gas which will enable the CO₂ emissions generated by the shopping centre's gas consumption to be offset through a reforestation project verified by independent third parties.

Furthermore, in 2010, Loop5 investigated the possibility of installing an on-site renewable energy system. The shopping centre team found that the optimum way to do this would be to rent out the shopping centre's roof space to a third party who could install and own a photovoltaic (PV) system. In November 2010, a contract was signed with Walter Konzept offering a 20 year lease term for Loop5's roof top space and in 2011, a PV array was installed consisting of 2,838 panels. The system is expected to produce 600,000kWh of electricity annually which will be fed into the energy grid, thereby adding renewable energy to the energy mix. Besides enabling 300 tonnes of CO₂ to be averted each year, this arrangement benefits Loop5 financially as an annual rental income will be received from Walter Konzept.